

Chapter 4 The Middle of the Night















STILL,

HE IS
WITH
THE
MAFIA.

IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
HE DOES
OUT TO
THE CASE
OF ANY
"WORK"
PERSONALLY.
HE SEEMS
LIKE A NICE
PERSON
BUT...

I WONDER IF
MANOME-SAN
IS LIKE A TEAM
LEADER TO
KATSURA
AND MEI.



—NO ONE
FOUND OUT
ABOUT IT,
RIGHT?



THIS
IS THE
FIRST
TIME
SINCE
COMING
BACK
TO THIS
TOWN

IT'S
BEEN
YEARS
SINCE
I'VE HAD
DINNER
ALONE
WITH A
GIRL.

PLUS,
SHE'S
JUST MY
TYPE!



MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY,
I
REALLY
GOTTA
THINK
ABOUT
THIS!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
IT'S FINE.
THAT'S
DONE
AND DONE
WITH!





THAT
MADE ME
KINDA
HAPPY



THIR-
TY-98

REALLY?
WAS
THE
NAME
FOR



WAS
BUTTER



.....I
HOPE YOU
WON'T
BE TOO
SURPRISED
BY THIS, AN.

THE
END



...IF THINGS
REALLY ARE
HANDLED
"THAT" WAY...
THIS IS GOING
TO BE MORE
THAN JUST
DISAPPOINT-
ING

Only
she can
probably
tell
what I'm
thinking

I
DIDN'T
WILL LET
IT GO
BUT
WHAT
DOES
SHE
WANT TO
TALK
ABOUT?



AH.

MML-
COME
BACK.



I'M
HOM.

HUMP?



...BUT MY
HUSBAND
THANKS
FOR
HELPING
HIM OUT

I
FIGURED YOU
WOULDN'T
COME IF I
HAD TOLD
YOU.

SORRY FOR
BRINGING
YOU HERE
WITHOUT
SAVING
ANYTHING.



AKI,
THANKS
FOR THE
OTHER
DAY

WHEN
I TOLD
RITSU
ABOUT IT,
SHE SAID
THAT
SHE KNEW
YOU.



SO
THAT'S
WHAT
THIS IS
ABOUT...



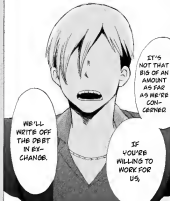
...I
FEEL
THE
SAME
WAY,
AFTER
ALL.



I REALLY
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU
DON'T WANT
TO BE
INVOLVED
WITH THE
MAGIA!

I SAID
I'M
SORRY!





WE'LL
WRITE OFF
THE DEBT
IN EX-
CHANGE.

IT'S
NOT THAT
BIG OF AN
AMOUNT
AS FAR
AS HE'VE
CON-
CERNED

IF
YOU'RE
WILLING TO
WORK FOR
US,



HE'S TOO
NICE FOR HIS
OWN GOOD.
HE WAS
TRICKED BY
ONE OF HIS
COWORKERS
AT THE
FACTORY
AND FELL
INTO
DEBT.

WHEN A
MEMBER
OF DRAGON'S
BRAND CAME
TO COLLECT
THE
MONEY...



NOT WHEN
COMPARED
TO TRYING
TO SUPPORT
YOUR WIFE
WHILE
REPAYING
THE DEBT.

NOT A
BAD DEAL,
RIGHT?



BUT THE
OTHER DAY,
I MADE A
MISTAKE AND
DID BUSINESS
IN LOVELY
HOMETOWN'S
TERRITORY.

I SELL
DRUGS.

I WORK
AT BARS,
CLUBS, AND
THE LIKE
THAT ARE
ON OUR
TERR



AND SO
WE CAME
HERE TO
THIS TOWN.



NO. THANKS
TO YOU, IT
DOESN'T
INTERFERE
WITH MY
EVERYDAY
LIFE
ANYMORE.
IT'S A
GOOD THING
THE WOUND
HASN'T
DEEP

DOES
IT
STILL
HURT?



I TRIED TO
GET AWAY BY
APOLOGIZING.

BUT
THERE'S
BEEN A LOT
OF FIGHTING
RECENTLY, AND
THE OTHER
GUY GOT ALL
WORDED UP

AND
THIS IS
HOW IT
ENDED



THANKS
A LOT.

I'M SO
GLAD
THINGS
TURNED
OUT OKAY.
IT'S ALL
BECAUSE
OF YOU,
ARI!



— IS
THAT
EVEN
POSSI-
BLE...



...IF WE KNEW IT
WAS GOING TO
BE THIS BAD
THOUGH, IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN MUCH
BETTER TO JUST
LIVE WITH THE
PAIN

I TOLD
YOU, IT'LL
BE OKAY. I
WON'T GO
ANYWHERE
DANGEROUS
ANYMORE.



IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIGHTING IS BECOMING MORE INTENSE, AND IT'S NOT REALLY CLEAR WHERE THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN TERRORISM IS ANYMORE.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE AFFILIATED WITH THE MAFIA, YOU'LL PROBABLY RUN INTO DANGER IN THIS TOWN.



YOU'RE PERTINENT ENOUGH - AHA.



YOU WAIT HERE, TAKASA. YOUR STOMACH STILL Hurts, DOESN'T IT?



I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS.

...BUT, DROP BY AGAIN.

WE HAVEN'T SEEN IN THIS TOWN THAT LONG...





...I'M
OKAY
DURING
THE
DAY.



WHAT IF
TSUKASA
DOESN'T
COME
BACK?



WHAT
AM I
GOING TO
DO IF HE
DIES...?



BUT AFTER
TSUKASA
LEAVES FOR
WORK AT
NIGHT, I
ALWAYS
START THINK-
ING ABOUT
THINGS WHEN
I'M LIVING
ALONE IN
BED.

I TELL
MYSELF
THAT HE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME
TO THIS
TOWN.



TELEASA
WILL BE
FINE.

HE JUST
HAD TO
STAY AWAY
FROM
DANGEROUS
AREAS.



..... IT'LL
BE OKAY

SORRY
IF WHAT
I SAID
EARLIER
MADE YOU
FEEL
UNEASY.



GLAD
TO
HEAR
IT.

I'LL COME
BY AGAIN.
TO THE CAFE
AS WELL, OF
COURSE.



SORRY
ABOUT
THAT!
LOOKS LIKE
I HAD A
LOT OF
STRESS
PENT UP

I THINK
I FEEL
BETTER
AFTER
CRYING.



...YEAH.







SHE
MIGHT
LEAVE
FOR
"WORK"
AND
NEVER
COME
BACK
AGAIN.

THE
SAME
THING
GOES
FOR
HER.





IF SHE
SHOULD
HAPPEN
TO DIE,

SO
REGARDLESS
OF HOW
MANY
PEOPLE
MEI KILLS,

I MAY
HAVE
DECIDED
NOT TO
GET IN-
VOLVED,
BUT
SHE'S NO
LONGER A
STRANGER
TO ME.



I'M
SURE
I'LL FEEL
SAD
ABOUT
IT.



YEAH?

...MEI.





...SORRY

I HEARD
YOU GOT
STABBED

BY ONE
OF THOSE
LOVELY
HOMETOWN
GUYS.



YOU KNOW
THAT I'M IN
THE RUNNING
TO BE THE
NEXT BOSS
TOO, DON'T
YOU—A
STRONG
CANDIDATE
ACTUALLY.

DON'T
BE
MAKING
STUPID
MOVES
LIKE
THAT.

HE'D
BE
GOING
THROUGH
AN
IMPORTANT
STAGE
HERE.



I MADE A
MISTAKE
AND DID
SOME
BUSINESS
ON THEIR
TERRITORY

I WIND UP
LOOKING
STUPID YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT,
RIGHT?

IT'S
JUST
STUPID

IF MY
MEN DO
SOMETHING
STUPID...

...I
KNOW.





WHO DO
YOU THINK IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR SAVING
YOU FROM A
LIVING HELL
OF DEBT,

YOU
LOSER?!

DON'T
GIVE ME
"I'M SORRY"
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
ERASE MY
KINDNESS BY
RUINING
THINGS?!

...YES.
I'M
SORRY.



...SEE
THIS HERE?

I AM
GRATEFUL
TO YOU,
SHIMEN-
SAN!

I'LL
BE MORE
CAREFUL
FROM NOW
ON!



TAKE
CARE
OF
THEM.

OKAY...

THEY'RE
HITMEN
WORKING FOR
LOVELY
HOMETOWN.









THEY
MIGHT END
UP KILLING
EACH OTHER,
RIGHT?
THERE'S A
ONE IN A
MILLION
CHANCE
OF THAT
HAPPENING.

...HE'LL BE
DYING FOR
NOTHING,
WON'T HE?

IF IT
DOES,

IT'LL
BE LUCKY
FOR US.



I'M
GONNA
ADD
SOME
PEPPER,
TOO.
PASS IT
OVER
HERE.

NO, YOU
NEEDED
ADD
TOO MUCH
PEPPER JUST
NOW.

USH.
SOMEONE'S
TALKING
BEHIND MY
BACK.



A C H O O O !





